

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 01454 282135Z
ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 FEA-01
AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
OMB-01 /105 W
-----282151 079199 /66

P R 281853Z FEB 77
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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ACTION STR

BANGKOK FOR STEVEN LANDE (ASST STR)

H PASS CODEL

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
SUBJ: TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONSULTATIONS - INDIA

REF: A. MTN GENEVA 8623, B. MTN GENEVA 5607, C. MTN GENEVA 2866

1. SUMMARY: AMB LALL (GOI AMBASSADOR TO EC) IN
BILATERAL CONVERSATION INDICATED THAT GOI HAD COME TO THE
VIEW THAT US TP OFFER OF SUFFICIENT VALUE FOR INDIA TO
MAKE ADDITIONAL COUNTER CONCESSIONS. HE INDICATED THAT
PREM KUMAR, (JOINT SECRETARY OF MINISTRY
OF COMMERCE) WOULD PUT SEVERAL REQUESTED CONCESSIONS
"IN TRAIN" UPON HIS RETURN TO DELHI, FEBRUARY
28. HE WOULD NOT PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS.
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MTN DEL INDICATED GRATIFICATION WITH APPARENT CHANGE
IN ATTITUDE, BUT NOTED THAT US WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO
CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING CONCESSIONS ON PRODUCTS OF
INTEREST TO INDIA WITHOUT FULL UNDERSTANDING OF
ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY BOTH SIDES. NEXT STEP TO
IMPROVE SUCH UNDERSTANDING WILL BE LANDE/KUMAR
DISCUSSIONS IN DELHI MARCH 3. END SUMMARY.

2. MTN DEL (GRAEF) HELD SHORT CONSULTATION WITH AMBASSADOR LALL, PREM KUMAR, AND SANDILYA ON FEB 24 AT AMB LALL'S REQUEST. LALL COMMENCED BY NOTING THAT GOI'S POSITION ON RELATIVE RECIPROCITY FOR US TP CONCESSIONS WAS CHANGING, THAT INDIA HAD ALREADY IMPLEMENTED TWO US REQUESTS (SEE REF A), AND THAT IT WAS CONSIDERING A FEW MORE. MTN DEL WELCOMED THIS TREND, BUT NOTED PREVIOUS DAYS SESSION WITH KUMAR HAD REVEALED GOI INTENTION TO ONLY REEXAMINE US REQUEST. WITH REGARD TO TWO PREVIOUS CONCESSIONS, MICA PROBLEM HAD NOT BEEN ADDRESSED IN MTN CONTEXT AND BRITISH PREFERENCES HAD NOT HAD ADVERSE AFFECT ON US COMMERCE AS DEMONSTRATED BY INDIA'S STATUS AS GSP BENEFICIARY. LALL RESPONDED THAT ELIMINATION OF BRITISH PREFERENCES HAD BEEN IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST RATHER THAN HELD FOR NEGOTIATION IN MTN, AND THAT KUMAR WOULD PUT OTHER CONCESSIONS "IN TRAIN" ON HIS RETURN TO DELHI. IN RETURN, HE HOPED US WOULD IMPLEMENT CONCESSIONS ON PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO INDIA. HE ALSO HOPED THAT LANDE (STR) WOULD BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO US OFFER DURING HIS VISIT TO DELHI.

3. MTN DEL PRESSED FOR DETAIL WITH REGARD TO FURTHER CONCESSIONS BY INDIA, NOTING THAT BEFORE THE US COULD CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING CONCESSIONS, THERE HAD TO BE SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT ON THE CONCESSIONS TO BE MADE BY BOTH SIDES. WITH REGARD TO IMPROVEMENT IN THE US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFER, OUR POSITION THAT ALL ELEMENTS OF US OFFER NEGOTIABLE WAS REPEATED WITH THE CAVEAT THAT IMPROVEMENTS WOULD NOT BE LIKELY UNTIL THERE WAS SPECIFIC POSITIVE INDIAN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST LIST, AND THAT SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT WAS UNLIKELY IN ANY EVENT. MTN DEL ALSO OBSERVED THAT LAST THREE-FOUR SESSIONS IN GENEVA HAD FOCUSED ON VALUE OF US OFFER AND THEREFORE INDIA HAD NOT BEEN SPECIFIC ON IMPROVEMENTS SOUGHT.

4. WITH REGARD TO IMPROVEMENTS, LALL CITED PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS WITH

CHADHA/ SANDILYA (REPORTED REF B AND C), AND OBSERVED THAT QUESTIONS OF DETAIL COULD BE DEALT WITH IN DELHI BY LANDE/KUMAR, AND IN GENEVA WITH SANDILYA. HE THEN RETURNED TO HIS THEME THAT INDIA WANTED TO SATISFY US REQUEST FOR COUNTER CONCESSIONS WITHOUT COMPROMISING GOI POSITION THAT LDC RECIPROCITY APPROPRIATE AT THE END OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ADDITIONAL

LDC BENEFITS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE CONSISTENCY OF HIS STATEMENTS IN PARAS 2 AND 4 ABOVE, HE EXPLAINED THAT INDIA HAD IMPLEMENTED AND WOULD IMPLEMENT CONCESSIONS OF INTEREST TO THE US BEFORE THE CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT NOT INDIRECT RESPONSE TO THE CONCESSIONS IT WOULD BENEFIT FROM. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE VIEWS OF OTHER LDCS WERE BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THIS POSITION, BUT THAT ONE FORM OF SOLIDARITY WAS FOR LDCS ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DO SO IN ORDER THAT ALL LDCS WOULD BENEFIT. HE STATED THIS VIEW WAS ACCEPTED BY SEVERAL LDCS IN GENEVA BUT OPPOSED BY OTHERS. IN SUMMARY, HE BELIEVED THE TREND IN INDIA WAS TO INCREASE ACCESS IN ITS MARKET TO INCREASE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES. HE STATED THE US SHOULD RECOGNIZE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENCOURAGE THIS TREND.

6. MTN DEL OBSERVED THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE SINCE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BEGIN IN OCTOBER. THERE REMAINED DIFFERENCES IN THE POSITION OF EACH, BUT APPARENTLY THE MAJOR QUESTION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF INDIAN CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE US OFFER HAD BEEN SETTLED. IT WAS NOW NECESSARY TO DISCUSS DETAILS TO SEE IF AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED. THE QUESTION OF TIMING WAS RAISED. LALL STATED THAT HE ANTICIPATED FURTHER PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE DURING LANDE/KUMAR TALKS IN DELHI, WITH AIM AT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA TO REACH AGREEMENT BY APRIL 1.

7. COMMENT: MTN DEL'S OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN TO PERSUADE AMB LALL OF THE VALUE OF US TP OFFER UNDER THE BELIEF HE COULD USE HIS INFLUENCE TO BREAK THE IMPASSE OVER RECIPROCITY. NEW DELHI HAS HAD A PASSIVE ROLE IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN SENT REPORTS ON THE CONVERSATIONS. MTN DEL BELIEVES THAT LALL AND KUMAR PRESENCE IN GENEVA LAST WEEK WAS FIRST MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO ON THIS SUBJECT. AMB LALL HAS APPARENTLY CONVINCED KUMAR TO IDENTIFY FURTHER CONCESSIONS IN ORDER TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH US, BUT DELHI HAS PROBABLY NOT SERIOUSLY EXAMINED US REQUEST LIST. WITH REGARD TO IMPROVEMENTS, MTN DEL BELIEVES THAT LIMITED IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH VALUE OF US OFFER (SEE REFTTEL A, PARA 12), BUT CAN BE CONFINED TO ITEMS ON PRESENT OFFER. THEY SHOULD BE OFFERED ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF A SPECIFIC POSITIVE RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST. AGREEMENT STILL APPEARS POSSIBLE

WITHOUT ELECTING FLEXIBILITY PERMITTED BY PARA 4C
OF TPSC 76.50.WALKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROPICAL PRODUCTS, AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977023/aaaaackm.tel
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